

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

The Newsletter of the Escambia County Historical Society

April 2002 - Vol. 29, No. 4

Editor, Ranella Holley

The Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2002; **Time:** 3:00 p.m.; **Location:** The Thomas E. McMillan Museum on the JDCC Campus; **Program:** Guest speaker **Wes Hardin**, the artist who designed and painted the large mural on the side of the old Everage's store in downtown Brewton; **Refreshments:** Ranella Holley

Wes Hardin

Calling himself an artist by profession and an illustrator by trade, **Wes Hardin** lives in **Dothan, Alabama**, and has been painting murals since he was in high school. It was the quality of his **murals in Dothan** that convinced the **Brewton Tree and Beautification Board** that he should be the artist to do a mural for Brewton.

He says he became hooked on doing large paintings when he participated in a class project painting a mural in a mall in **Panama City, Florida**. His murals are really **illustrations of history**, as in the case of the one in Brewton, which tells the story of the logging industry, a primary part of the town's history.

He does interiors for private homes, as well as large murals on buildings and has painted for individuals and companies from **Florida to Washington D. C.** At the present time, he is working in **Andalusia, Alabama**, covering a large truck with a mural of scenes based on **Gone with the Wind**. The trucking company plans to use this "mural on wheels" as an advertisement for the company.

When funds are available, the **Brewton Tree and Beautification Board** has plans for more murals by Mr. Hardin on Brewton's history.

The March Meeting

There was **overwhelming approval of the amendments to the Society's By-Laws**. Those attending the meeting **unanimously agreed**

- 1. That Section 3 of Article VI be deleted in its entirety.**
- 2. That punctuation (a comma) be placed in the wording of Article VI, Section I, following the word(s) Historian/Curator and before the conjunction "and" in the phrase, "Historian/Curator and Editor of Journal and Newsletter," so as to clearly separate the two, distinct officer-positions.**

3. **That Article VI, Section 2 be amended** to read, "Officers shall be elected biennially and shall hold office for a term of two (2) years, or until their successors are elected."

In other business, **President Darryl Searcy** presented our Treasurer, **Peggy Bracken**, with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition for the **outstanding work** she has done in preparing financial reports for the society. In his remarks, Darryl pointed out that with little data to go on, she has tracked down information from agencies and individuals throughout the county and state to give the society a good financial statement. The **Society's President** said that **Peggy** "never gave up in the face of absolute adversity and frustration, when I really wanted to lay it down and walk away"; she "never doubted, and never quit smiling."

President Searcy also reported that questions concerning monies paid to **Anita Enterprises** have been successfully resolved with both the society and the accounting firm pleased with the results. **Anita Enterprises** has agreed to pay back \$150 of \$300 paid to them.

Peggy Bracken served delicious refreshments.

Welcome to New Members

We welcome **Joyce Schnoor** of Milton, Florida, **Ronald Baxley** of Brewton, **Elizabeth Edwards** of Brewton, and **Jerry Simmons** of Century, Florida.

Joyce Schnoor deserves both an apology and a welcome. She joined the Society last year, but through an oversight, was not listed on the mailing list and did not receive the Newsletter. Hopefully she will now enjoy the Newsletter and can join us at our meetings.

Ronald Baxley, who has returned to Brewton after living away from the area, is interested in all aspects of history. **Elizabeth Edwards** has been a member of the Brewton Tree and Beautification Board. She is presently working on an event to remember and pay tribute to the Brewton Collegiate Institute.

Jerry Simmons writes a weekly column for the Tri-City Ledger that usually relates to the work of and items of interest to the **Alger-Sullivan Historical Society**. He is also the Webmaster for the Society's web page.

News About Members

Congratulations to **Ed Williams**, Historical Society member and faculty advisor to the award-winning, college newspaper, The Auburn Plainsman. Named the best all-around collegiate newspaper by the Southeast Journalism Conference, the paper also received a national

Pacemaker Award, called the “collegiate equivalent of a Pulitzer Prize,” for the third year in a row. A journalism professor at Auburn, Ed was once on the staff of The Brewton Standard.

Web Sites of Interest

- **The Society’s Web Page** <<http://www.jdcc.net/ECHS.htm>> Visit and enjoy pictures from the March meeting.
- **The Alger-Sullivan Historical Society Web Page**
Either <<http://algersullivan.org>> or
<http://geocities.com/algersullivan/ashs_site/welcome_and_ix.html>
This site has excellent photographs and illustrations to accompany the text on the history of the area.
- **Acrobat Reader**
<<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>> This is a valuable address for those who visit sites that require Acrobat Reader. The site on WWI-II, maintained by Florida State University and recommended in the last Newsletter, requires Acrobat Reader in order to read all of the pages.

Adkisson & Company and the Greyhound Bus Station

President Darryl Searcy needs help on identifying and learning the history of a company listed on a crate-label that he received as a beautifully framed gift. He would like to display it in the Alabama Room. However, he doesn’t know anything about the company whose name is on the label. The label has a large drawing of strawberries and the notation, “**Distributed By Adkisson & Company.**”

Also, Darryl would like to hear from anyone who remembers when Brewton had a **Greyhound Bus Station** at or near where the gift shop, the Cracked Pot, stands today. In addition, Darryl is interested in locating pictures **of the bus station.**

Contact the Society if you have information - **Address:** Escambia County Historical Society, P. O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427; **Phone:** 251-809-1612; **Email:** Ranny1@earthlink.net

The News in 1906

From the Brewton Standard for April 1906

- **Ex-Governor, William C. Oates**, as a part of his campaign to be Alternate U. S. Senator from Alabama, spoke at the courthouse in Brewton. He pledged that, if elected, he would “fight for a measure refunding to the Southern States the amount of money which was forced from them in Reconstruction days by the iniquitous cotton tax.”

- **Ex-Governor Russell M. Cunningham** reopened his campaign for Governor at the Auditorium of the Brewton Institute. He declared he was in favor of the "healthy immigration of a good class of citizenship, which would add to the number of our better element of citizens and thus be a benefit to the state."
- **Robert Bell, M. C. Stokes, C. W. F. Price, Nicholas T. Dixon, W. K. Mayo, and G. K. Fountain** announced they were running for sheriff of Escambia County.
- **The County Commissioner's Court** agreed to a petition from the citizens of Brewton to have the county buildings on St. Joseph Ave. moved back ten feet.
- **The Commissioners** also appropriated \$250.00 for the installment on the courthouse grounds of two large cannon, which were given to the county by the federal government.
- **The Grand Jury of Escambia County** reported that they had examined the condition of the county roads and found that "a marked improvement could be had if the officials in charge thereof would be more diligent in the discharge of their duty." **The Grand Jury** also reported it had found the courthouse and jail properly kept, the county's books in good order, but did not inspect the county poor house because "there were no papers in it."
- **Dr. L. E. Ray & Co.**, "The great southern specialist of Louisville, now located in Brewton," advertised treatment for all chronic diseases, promising he, "Cures Catarrh in from 30 to 60 days." Costs were only \$3.00 to \$5.00 per month.
- **Calhoun, Florida**, was on a boom, "There was a wedding, a log rolling and a school exhibition," all in one week.
- **The Lindsey Lumber Company in Pollard** and the **Depot at Flomaton** were destroyed by fire.
- **At Bradley**, Mr. George Stephenson was rebuilding his saw, gristmill and gin that had been destroyed by fire a few weeks earlier. The whistle had blown the day before and the mill would "commence sawing again" the next week.
- **Southern Bell Tel & Tel** installed a new switchboard for 100 more telephone lines in their Brewton office, the second board installed within a year. The manager reported there were 125 phones already installed in Brewton, with phone lines in place to Alco and North Brewton, and plans to extend the lines to East Brewton.
- **Also, Southern Bell** put in a pay station in the Brewton Drug Co., "for the convenience of the patrons of the Long Distance."

- The **L. & N. Railroad** announced it was putting in a new spur track from the switch at Simmons and Mill Streets to run to the log road of the Lovelace Lumber Co. The new spur would handle the shipments from the fruit farms north of Brewton.
- **Cement blocks** were used to pave the sidewalk in front of the new **Brewcambia Hotel** and **Mr. W. T. Neal** had the sidewalk “across the entire front of his residence lot laid.”
- **The Lovelace Lumber Co.** announced it would no longer sell or deliver wood on account: “Parties desiring wood must pay drayman on delivery.”
- **Sowell and Hayes** installed a modern electric message machine, making their establishment “as up-to-date as any found in the cities of many thousands.”
- **Mrs. Alabama Debardeleben** was the guest of **Mrs. W. G. Martain** at Rose Fern Cottage.

Books for Sale

	Mailed	Regular Price
<u>A History of Escambia County</u>	\$55.00	\$50.00
<u>Headstones and Heritage</u>	\$40.00	\$35.00
<u>Escambia Historical Society Cookbook</u>	\$10.00	\$ 5.00

Get in Touch with Us

The editor of the Newsletter would like to share information and news about members of the society in the Newsletter each month. Let me hear from you.

Address: Escambia County Historical Society, P. O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427; **Phone:** 251-809-1612;

New Email Address for Editor: Rannyl@earthlink.net

Deadline for Membership Fees.

- The Society's policy is that members must pay their membership fees within six months of the due date or be dropped from the membership list.
 - The deadline for payment is July 1, 2002.
- ❖ Send the \$10.00 Membership/Renewal Fee, now due, to the **Treasurer: Peggy Bracken, 602 Edgewood Drive, Brewton, AL 36426.**
- ❖ Please clip the following form and return whether you are mailing Membership fees or not, so that we can verify addresses.

Membership Renewal/Application Form

Name _____
First **Middle** **Last**

Address _____
Street **City** **State** **Zip**

Phone _____

Email _____